



TO OPEN – TEAR OFF SIDE PERFORATIONS AND SLIDE FINGER UNDER TOP EDGE

Mississippi Department of Employment Security

Post Office Box 23088
Jackson, MS 39225-3088

OFFICIAL BUSINESS
PENALTY FOR PRIVATE USE, \$300

Return Service Requested

PRESORTED
FIRST-CLASS MAIL
US POSTAGE & FEES PAID
MISSISSIPPI
DEPARTMENT OF
EMPLOYMENT SECURITY
PERMIT NO. G-12

UNEMPLOYMENT INSURANCE POLICY

Disaster Unemployment Assistance (DUA)

THE PURPOSE OF THE PROGRAM IS to provide assistance for a limited period of time to individuals who are left jobless as a direct result of a major disaster.

THE MISSISSIPPI DEPARTMENT OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY has entered into an agreement with the Secretary of Labor whereby the Department will assume the responsibility of taking applications for unemployment assistance, making determinations of eligibility, making payments, and rendering appeal decisions in connection with Disaster Unemployment Assistance.

DISASTER UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE is available to any unemployed worker or unemployed self-employed individual who (1) is unemployed as a direct result of the major disaster; or (2) is unable to reach the place of employment as a direct result of the major disaster; or (3) was scheduled to start work and does not have a job or is unable to reach the job as a direct result of the major disaster; or (4) has become the breadwinner or major support for a household because the head of the household has died as a direct result of the major disaster; or (5) cannot work because of an injury caused by a direct result of the major disaster. If you are eligible for regular state unemployment benefits, you must exhaust those benefits before receiving DUA benefits.

THE WEEKLY DUA AMOUNT is based upon the individual's prior earnings. The maximum weekly amount cannot exceed the maximum weekly benefit amount provided under the Mississippi Department of Employment Security Law. A disaster assistance period will begin with the first week following the date the major disaster began, and will end 26 weeks after the declaration date. An individual's eligibility for DUA is determined on a week-to-week basis.

TO BE ELIGIBLE FOR UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS YOU MUST:

- (1) Be unemployed through no fault of your own,
- (2) Be able and available to work,
- (3) Serve a one-week waiting period (benefits cannot be paid for this waiting period week). **The waiting period will be waived if you are unemployed due to Hurricane Katrina,**
- (4) Be registered for work at the Employment Service in your area if you are not returning to work within 30 days. **The registration requirement will be waived if you are unemployed due to Hurricane Katrina.**

YOU MUST REPORT:

- (1) All work,
- (2) Any offer of work,
- (3) Illness or disability,
- (4) Change of address even after you stop filing or exhaust your benefits,
- (5) Receipt of pension or retirement pay,
- (6) All earnings during the week worked, even if you have not been paid.

DISQUALIFICATIONS

Although you may meet all of the requirements that have been outlined above, your benefits may be delayed or denied if:

- (A) You left work without good cause under the Law,
- (B) You were discharged for misconduct connected with your work.
- (C) You fail to apply for or accept suitable employment,
- (D) You are unemployed because of a labor dispute,
- (E) You are receiving a pension toward which a base period employer contributed
- (F) You are receiving or seeking unemployment benefits from another State,
- (G) You fail to make an active search for work.

FRAUDULENT CLAIMS

Anyone making a false statement or withholding facts to increase or obtain benefits to which he is not entitled is guilty of a misdemeanor punishable by fine or imprisonment, or both.

WORKFORCE INVESTMENT ACT OF 1998

The WIN Job Center provides for reemployment services and training for dislocated workers including those workers involved in permanent plant closings or substantial layoffs. Interested individuals should report to the nearest WIN Job Center or contact MDES at WWW.MDES.MS.GOV.

TAX INFORMATION

Unemployment and Disaster Unemployment Assistance is taxable by Federal Law. You may choose to have 10% of your unemployment payment withheld for Federal Income Tax. You will be permitted to change a previously selected option by contacting Mississippi Department of Employment Security (MDES). You will be furnished a statement of benefits paid to you, Form 1099-UC or the equivalent, at the end of the year.

WEEKLY CLAIM CERTIFICATION

You must file a weekly claim to certify your eligibility. A weekly claim certification can be filed through Mississippi's Interactive Telephone System (**MITS**). Your weekly claim certification **MUST** be filed timely. The system will only accept the most recently completed calendar week. Each week starts on Sunday and ends on Saturday.

TO FILE YOUR WEEKLY CLAIM CERTIFICATIONS THROUGH MITS:

- Call **1-866-946-6487** during the hours **MITS** is available. MITS is available:
 - ◆ Sunday, 12:01 am until Monday, 7 pm; Tuesdays through Thursday, 7 am-7 pm; Friday 7 am – 5 pm.
- Press "1" to file your weekly claim.
- Enter your Social Security Number when asked.
- Enter your PIN when asked.
- Answer a series of questions by pressing "1" for YES and "9" for NO.
 - ◆ Were you able and available for work last week?
 - ◆ Did you refuse any work last week?
 - ◆ Did you do any work last week?
 - If you indicated that you worked last week, the system will ask you to report your earnings and if you have returned to full-time work, you must provide a return-to-work date. It is very important that any earnings be properly reported during the week in which they were earned, not when paid.
- You may have your answers repeated for verification.
- You may change your answers if necessary.
- You will be asked to certify that your answers are true and correct.
- The system will advise you if your claim has been accepted.